



PRESS RELEASE

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“ICE” SMUGGLER SENTENCED TO 14 YEARS IN PRISON

TUCSON, Ariz. – Jaime Pena-Acosta, DOB 9/19/82, of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, was sentenced today to 168 months in prison by U.S. District Judge Raner C. Collins, in Tucson, Ariz. after the defendant pleaded guilty on June 24, 2004, to Importation of Methamphetamine and Possession With Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine.

The charges stemmed from Pena-Acosta's attempt to smuggle 24.92 pounds of methamphetamine into the U.S. through the Grand Avenue Port of Entry in Nogales, Ariz. Subsequent testing revealed the methamphetamine to be 99% pure, therefore qualifying as “ice.” After waiving his Miranda rights, Pena-Acosta admitted that he knew that he was transporting “ice,” which he knew to be a form of methamphetamine, that he was being paid to deliver the “ice” to the parking lot of a store in Nogales, Ariz. and that it was his third time transporting “ice.”

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Immigrations and Customs agents and inspectors from Nogales, Ariz.

The prosecution was handled by Judson T. Mihok, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-04-1051 TUC RCC

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